

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The present invention is a four layer architecture that includes reusable components that can be used in varied operating environments and with varied network devices. The architecture includes an operating system dependent layer, an  
5 operating system independent layer, a media independent layer, and a media dependent layer. The operating system dependent layer can vary for differing operating system. In contrast, the operating system independent layer is identical or substantially similar for differing operating systems. Similarly, the media  
independent layer is identical or substantially similar for different network devices  
10 (*e.g.*, a family or group of network devices). The media dependent layer can vary according to differing and varied network devices.